Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Roberta Metsola
President of the European Parliament

Charles Michel
President of the European Council

Josep Borell
High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Vice President of the European Commission

Miroslav Lajčák
EU Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkan regional issues

Open Letter on the Situation on the Post-Election Situation in Serbia

Your Excellencies,

In light of allegations of massive electoral manipulations during the Serbian parliamentary and local elections that took place on 17th December 2023, we call on the EU to conduct an independent investigation of all reported election irregularities and claims of fraud.

Our common goal is to see Serbia as a member of the European Union within this decade. A necessary requirement for this is a functioning democracy and the rule of law. The massive electoral manipulations observed by the international election observation mission and independent civil society observers are clear violations of the principles of free, equal, and secret elections and incompatible with this requirement. This raises grave concerns about the legitimacy of the electoral results nationally, and particularly regarding the Belgrade City Assembly elections.

These events and the repressive state response in their aftermath indicate a further escalation in the autocratic development of the country. This development includes Serbia's continued cooperation with the Russian Federation regardless of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. This poses a critical threat towards the stability of the entire Western Balkans. If there is no common European response now, it will invite similar actions by actors in neighboring states in the future.

As European parliamentarians, we call on the EU:

- To support an independent investigation by the European Parliament into the allegations of electoral manipulation during the Serbian parliamentary and local elections.
- To draft a list of recommendations, building on the 26 recommendations made by ODIHR after the 2022 elections, to ensure free, equal, and secret elections, and a conditioning of further funding and progress in the accession process on their implementation before the next elections.
- Depending on the findings of the investigation, to call for a repetition of the elections.

Signed,

Michael Roth
Chair
Foreign Affairs Committee
Deutscher Bundestag
Germany

Alicia Kearns
Chair
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
United Kingdom

Žygimantas Pavilionis
Chair
Foreign Affairs Committee
Seimas
Lithuania

Guilio Terzi
Chair
European Affairs Committee
Senate
Italy

Marek Ženíšek
Chair
Committee on Foreign Affairs
Chamber of Deputies
Czech Republic

Pavel Fischer
Chair
Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Defense and Security
Senate
Czech Republic

Oleksandr Merezhko
Chair
Committee on Foreign Affairs
Verkhovna Rada
Ukraine

Charles Flanagan
Chair
Committee on Foreign Affairs
and Defence
Oireachtas
Ireland

Rihards Kols
Chair
Committee on Foreign Affairs
Saeima
Latvia

Marko Mihkelson
Chair
Committee on Foreign Affairs
Riigikogu
Estonia

Doina Gherman
Chair
Committee on Foreign and
European Affairs
Parliament of Moldova
Moldova

Domagoj Hajduković
Chair
European Affairs Committee
Croatian Parliament
Croatia

Bogdan Klich
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Committee on European Union Affairs
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